

Message Text

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TAGS: AS, US, MARR

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENTS - PINE GAP JOINT DEFENSE
SPACE RESEARCH FACILITY AND NARRANGAR FACILITY

1. SUMMARY: IN TWO RECENT STATEMENTS PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM
INDICATED THAT THE GOA HAS NO INTENTION OF TERMINATING THE
AGREEMENTS COVERING THE JOINT FACILITIES AT PINE GAP AND
NARRANGA. END SUMMARY.

2. ON AUGUST 21 PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM GAVE THE FOLLOWING ANSWER
ON THE PINE GAP FACILITY IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION UPON NOTICE.

QTE. QUESTION: (1) DID HE SAY IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON
3 APRIL 1975 THAT THERE SHOULD NOT BE FOREIGN MILITARY BASES,
STATIONS OR INSTALLATIONS IN AUSTRALIA, THAT THE GOVERNMENT
WOULD HONOUR AGREEMENTS COVERING EXISTING ONES BUT THAT IT DID
NOT FAVOUR THE EXTENSION OR PROLONGATION OF ANY OF THE EXISTING
AGREEMENTS AND THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE EXTENSIONS OR
PRLIFERATIONS;IF SO, IS THIS STILL THE INTENTION OF THE GOVERNMENT?

QTE. (2) IF THIS IS STILL THE INTENTION OF THE GOVERNMENT, WHEN
DOES HE PROPOSE TO GIVE NOTICE TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OF
TERMINATION OF THE AGREEMENT COVERING THE JOINT DEFENSE SPACE

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RESEARCH FACILITY AT PINE GAP?

QTE. (3) IF THE FOREGOING IS NOT PROPOSED, WHAT IS THE INTENTION OF THE GOVERNMENT IN RELATION TO THIS FACILITY?

ANSWER: MR. WHITLAM - THE ANSWER TO THE HONOURABLE MEMBER'S QUESTION IS AS FOLLOWS:

QTE. (1) THE TEXT AND CONTEXT OF MY ANSWER TO A QUESTION FROM THE FORMER LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION APPEAR AT PAGE 905 OF HANSARD OF 3 APRIL 1974.

QTE. (2) THE AGREEMENT (TREATY SERIES 1966, NO. 17) CAN BE TERMINATED BY A YEAR'S NOTICE GIVEN ON OR AFTER 9 DECEMBER 1975 BY THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA OR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES. NEITHER GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO GIVE NOTICE OF TERMINATION.

QTE. (3) THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS THAT THE FACILITY SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE OPERATED JOINTLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AGREEMENT. END QTE

3. ON AUGUST 26 THE PRIME MINISTER MADE THE FOLLOWING RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM OPPOSITION LEADER FRASER:

QTE. QUESTION: MR. MALCOLM FRASER - I ASK THE PRIME MINISTER: HAS THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT REVERSED ITS POLICY ABOUT JOINT BASES WITH THE UNITED STATES AND TAKEN THE DECISION TO EXTEND THE AGREEMENT PROVIDING FOR THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE JOINT DEFENCE BASE RESEARCH FACILITY AT PINE GAP? DOES THIS CHANGE IN POLICY APPLY ALSO TO THE JOINT DEFENCE BASE COMMUNICATIONS STATION AT NURRUNGAR, NEAR WOOMERA?

QTE. MR. WHITLAM - I ANSWERED A QUESTION ON NOTICE CONCERNING THE FIRST FACILITY LAST THURSDAY. THE SAME PRINCIPLES WOULD APPLY TO THE OTHER FACILITY. END QTE
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